DECLASSIFIED

SATURDAY
MAY 1, 1954

Awakened at six o'clock by guests going to their baths. Killed mosquitoes, to number of six, all gorged with blood -- mine!

Started with the Lanes for Venice, in their car, at 11:00 o'clock. Were on the boat at noon. The Lanes lunched us at Torcello, and we had Campani in the Piazza San Marco before going to meet Ernest Hemingway at the Gritti. It is sunny today, but cool enough for an overcoat. Being the labor day holiday of Europe, all shops are closed. Lots of Communist organization red flags, with the hammer and sickle, in the villages between Padua and Venice.

Ernest was charming and affectionate -- wonderful personality, simplicity and wisdom mingled, tough but sensitive. His gray beard is now clipped short, and he looks like a benevolent Friar. He talked much of Africa. During his recent trip he was made an honorary game warden of Kenya. He had several hundred warriors, including former East Africa riflemen, with him. I gather they did some useful work in suppressing Mau Mau. He was initiated into blood brothership with one of the friendly tribal chieftains. Three days of rough treatment -- the photographs of what was done to him made college hazing appear infantile.

His two airplane accidents have left their mark. Mary escaped with a couple of broken ribs. She is now in Spain. Ernest fractured his skull -- it still is open behind one ear. Also, he injured his liver and one kidney, and crushed two vertebrae in his spinal column. He looks and seems strong as a buffalo. Though a [redacted] large man, he moves as quickly as a cat.

We had a good lunch at the Gritti and afterwards walked down to San Marco. There we regretfully parted with Ernest, and joined the Lanes at the Hotel Danieli. This former Dandolo palace is [redacted] luxurious, and architecturally interesting. It is extraordinary what a variety of marbles the Venetians used in their buildings. We took the vaporetto to the station, rejoined the car, and motored back on the

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CAC DATE 7-1-81
□or XDS□EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
IS NOT
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS □
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED□
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

old road. This gave us a view of part of the Brenta region which we had not penetrated yesterday.

We stopped to admire the Villa Foscarini. It is dilapidated, but an enchanting example of Palladian. A reproduction, or adaptation of it, would sit well in the southern countryside at home. Other houses were also of great interest. This is an architect's paradise. Puzzled out from Italian papers that no real progress has yet been made at Geneva.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
PEVIEWED BY CEE DATE 7-1-81
D☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED